



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia D. Gibbons
Director

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Contact: Frank Adams
(803) 734-9912
adams@aging.sc.gov

or: David Lucas
(803) 734-9917
dlucas@aging.sc.gov

**Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Awards \$350,000
Grant for Senior Center in Mt. Pleasant**

Columbia – Lt. Governor André Bauer's Office on Aging announced today that the Town of Mt. Pleasant will receive a \$350,000 state grant to help with construction of a new senior center. Senior centers in eight South Carolina communities will share in a \$1.9 million package of state assistance that will be distributed to support construction and renovation efforts statewide.

"The services and programs that these centers provide make a positive impact and help create many opportunities to improve the quality of life of seniors and their families in those communities," said Bauer.

The need for a dedicated center to serve Mt. Pleasant's growing population of seniors has been evident for quite some time. As far back as 1998, a study by Clemson University identified a dedicated senior center as a needed service for the area's rapidly growing population of senior adults. Strong community support and planning efforts by groups such as the East Cooper Senior Coalition have helped make the goal identified in that study a reality. Planned services at the center include health and wellness programming, nutrition, recreation and other activities. Project planners estimate a construction start date of August 2006. South Carolina's senior population is expected to double over the next two decades.

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The South Carolina Senior Center Permanent Improvement Program (PIP)

Established by the South Carolina Legislature in 1991, the PIP grant process uses revenue from the statewide tax on Bingo games to fund improvements to Senior and Community Centers statewide. The program is administered by the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, and provides much needed support for the network of support services available to help older South Carolinians lead active and vital lives in their own homes and communities.

Grants awarded for the 2005 PIP funding include the following projects:

Capitol Senior Center: (\$52,900) for renovation/addition to the existing senior center in Columbia.

Edgefield County Senior Citizens Council: (\$350,000) for construction of a new senior center in Edgefield.

Georgetown County Bureau of Aging Services: (\$350,000) for the construction of a senior center in the Pawley's Island area.

Marlboro County Council on Aging: (\$9,000) for electrical rewiring and improved parking at the existing senior center in Marlboro.

McCormick County Council on Aging: (\$350,000) for the construction of a new multi-purpose senior center in McCormick.

Town of Mt. Pleasant: (\$350,000) for a new senior center in the Town of Mt. Pleasant.

Newberry County Council on Aging: (\$350,000) for the expansion of the existing senior center in Newberry.

St. James South Santee Community Center: (\$100,000) for the renovation of the existing center in McClellanville.